7181684/2023/OP-ESE01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTARACT

School Education - Prosecution –Sanction under Section 199 (4) (b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for filing complaint by the Public Prosecutor in a competent court of law against the Editor and others of Eenadu Newspaper for publishing baseless allegations against Government –Accorded - Orders – Issued.

SCHOOL EDUCATION (PROG.II) DEPARTMENT

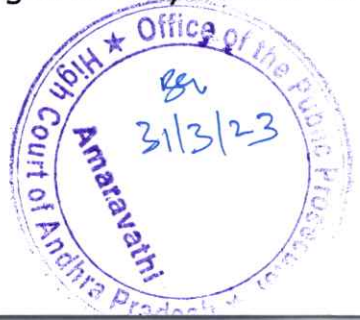
G.O.Ms.No.35 Dated: 31.03.2023
Read the following:

1. "కిట్లుకొన్నారుకోట్లుతిన్నారు!" caption in the headlines published on 29.01.2023 in Eenadu Telugu Daily Newspaper.
2. Govt.Lr.No.1932309/SE-Prog.II/A1/2022,Dated:03.02.2023.
3. U.O.Note No.2019715/SC.F/2023,GA(SC.F) Department, dt.14.03.2023.

ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, false news item has been published in the Eenadu News Paper with the Caption "కిట్లుకొన్నారుకోట్లుతిన్నారు!" in the headline published on 29.01.2023, which is libelous, scandalous, untruthful, unfounded, per se defamatory, derogatory news. It was alleged in the said newspaper that, there were certain irregularities in purchasing of Vidyakanuka kits and inspections done by the vigilance enforcement revealed that the bags, shoes purchased were of poor quality. Further, it is alleged that, the officers are purchasing excess kits under Vidyakanuka Scheme in order to benefit themselves in the form of commissions. Apart from the aforesaid allegations, they have gone to an extent stating that, Government has wasted Rs.162 Crores in purchasing of school kits for the students.

2. In the news article, there are no specific averments made against any officer in particular about the alleged irregularities with



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respect to purchase of Vidyakanuka kits. On plain reading of toneand tenor of the article, it is evident that, their main agenda is to disrepute and chastise the Government Officials and the Officials of SamagraShisksha. The whole news article was published with no iota of evidence and with a malafide motive to defame the Government by stating that, the crores of amount was swindled in the name of vidyakanuka kits.

3. That the news published in Eenadu Telugu Daily Newspaper is factually incorrect and leads to misconception in the minds of the public and it has failed to present the true facts with regard to the incident happened, despite being aware of the fact that, it is the procedure adopted by the Government to purchase excess 5% kits every year than the number of students in existence, keeping in view of new admissions and mid joining of students for the next year. The Government by calculating the remaining balance stock after completion of distribution and after confirming that there are no remaining students to receive the kits, the Government will audit the distribution of kits and will calculate number of kits has to be purchased of the next academic year and then will call for tenders for excess 5% as per the calculation by the authorities and it is the regular and routine practice. The main objective of the Vidya Kanuka Scheme is to provide quality education to all the students with foremost facilities.

4. Further, the newspaper contains several false allegations and statement and is based on wholly erroneous understanding and interpretation of the facts relating to the incident, which has caused enormous prejudice to the Government and affected and damaged the reputation and integrity in the eyes of the public. After considering the above facts, it is evident that a deliberate act to tarnish the image of the Government by publishing false news article which read as whole is per se defamatory in nature, and the same was published without factually ascertaining the truth before publishing the same.

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5. In the circumstances reported in the reference 3rd cited, Government, after careful examination of the matter and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 199 (4) (b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, hereby accord sanction to the concerned Public Prosecutor to make a complaint before the competent Court against the following individuals for publishing Defamatory, Derogatory and Venomous news which is devoid of truth published in Eenadu News paper dated.29.01.2023 with the caption "కిట్టుకొన్నారుకోట్లుతిన్నారు!":

i. Ushodaya Enterprises Pvt. Ltd,
Represented by it's Managing Director
Survey No.94 B,C&D,
Nidumukkala Village, Tadikonda Mandal,
Guntur District,
Andhra Pradesh – 522 016.

ii. Mr. Ch. Kiran,
Managing Director,
Eenadu, Road No.36,
Jubille Hills, Hyderabad.

iii. Mr. M. Nageshwara Rao
Printer & Publisher,
Eenadu Telugu Daily,
Survey No.239/3, 240/3B & 240/4,
Gudavalli Village,
Vijayawada Rural Mandal,
NTR District,
Andhra Pradesh – 521 104.

iv. Mr. M. Nageshwara Rao,
Editor, Eenadu Telugu Daily,
Survey No.239/3, 240/3B & 240/4,
Gudavalli Village,
Vijayawada Rural Mandal,
NTR District,
Andrha Pradesh – 521 104

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v. The Bureau Chief,
Eenadu Telugu Daily
Survey No.239/3, 240/3B & 240/4
Gudavalli Village,
Vijayawada Rural Mandal,
NTR District,
Andrha Pradesh – 521 104

6. The concerned Public Prosecutor, shall take immediate further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PRAVEEN PRAKASH
PRINCIPAL SECTRETY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Public Prosecutor.

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